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description of the species, shows that Dr. True is guilty of an inaccuracy as to the grounds on which the species was distinguished: "The shorter head and fins, the peculiarly high neural spines and peculiarities of the cervical vertebræ, would seem to distinguish this [species] from the *longimana*." I add that since my description was written, the museum at Niagara Falls, where the specimen is preserved, has been rebuilt, and the skeleton very probably remounted by an inexperienced person.

Dr. True and others are correct in the supposition that my *Hyperoödon semijunctus* is a Ziphius, as I have known for a long time, and had supposed I had published. The *Agaphelus gibbosus* must be withdrawn from the list of authentic species. The bones which I referred to it are probably those of *Balænoptera rostrata.* The characters of the animal in the flesh were given me by persons whom I supposed to be trustworthy, but who may have been mistaken. The species may, however, be the *Balæna gibbosa* of the old authors. Dr. True is not always consistent in his nomenclature. Thus he adopts the name *Phocæna brachycium*, the first name of the species which was published with a description. The species had previously been named *P. americana* without description. The history of the name *Balæna cisarctica* is the same. It was first described under this name, though it had probably already received the catalogue name *B. biscayensis*, without description. Dr. True adopts the latter name. The name *B. cisarctica* should, by the rules of nomenclature, be allowed to stand, and is also much the better one. It has been adopted by American authorities, as Gill, Allen, Holder, etc.—*E. D. Cope.*

WINCHELL'S REPORT ON THE GEOLOGY OF MINNESOTA.[1]—The more notable features of this annual report are Steng and Kloos' paper on the crystalline rocks of Minnesota, which is dated Giessen and Hanover, August, 1876. Besides presenting notes of rock outcrops in Central Minnesota, Mr. Warren Upham reports on the glacial lake, Agassiz, the area and depth of which are thus described, its old beaches being well described and indicated on a map: "When this glacial lake attained its greatest extent, just before it found an outlet into Hudson bay, over the melting ice-sheet, its length from south to north was probably greater than Lake Superior; but its area was only half or two-thirds that of Lake Superior because of its less average width. At the time of the formation of its highest beach, the depth of Lake Agassiz above the Lake of the Woods was some 200 feet; above the Red River valley, at our northern boundary, 450; and above Lake Winnipeg about 600 feet."

Mr. Upham does not accept Gen. Warren's view that the drainage of this region was directed southward by an elevation of the land considerably above its present height north-east of Lake

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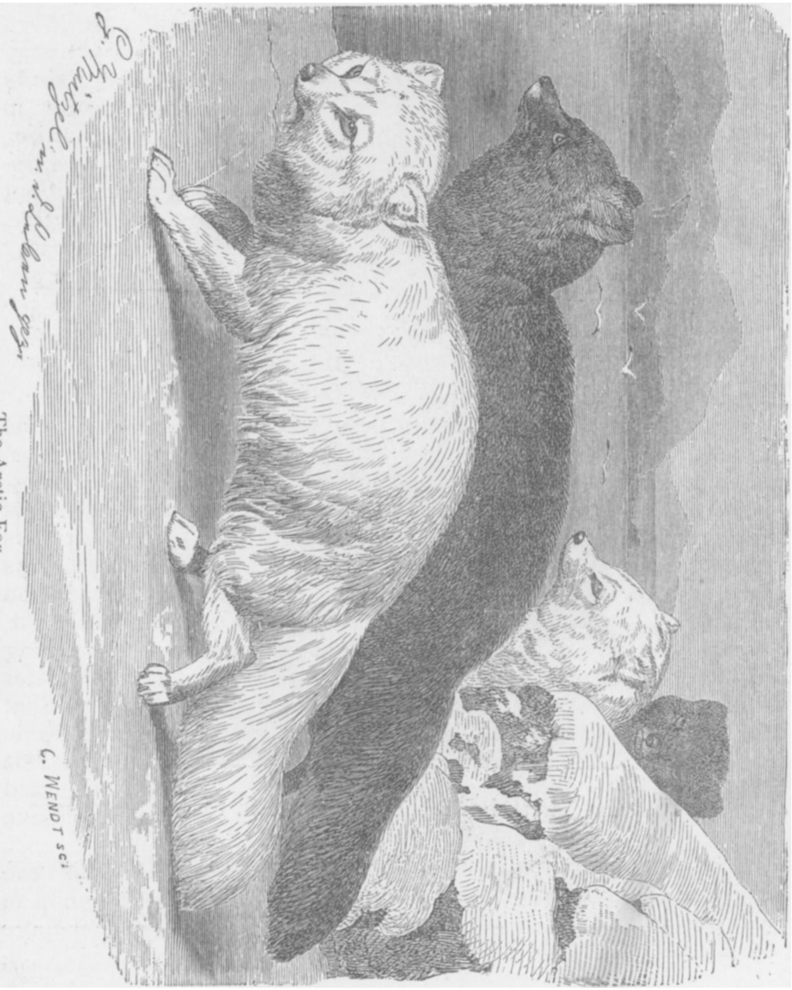
[1] *The Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota.* The eleventh annual report for the year 1882. N. H. WINCHELL, State geologist. Minneapolis, 1884. 8vo, pp. 219, with two maps.

Winnipeg, but "that the surface of the continent had nearly the same form then as now, and that the continental ice-sheet, resting on the land in a solid mass of great depth, formed the northern shores of Lake Agassiz and was the barrier that prevented its flowing into Hudson bay."

On p. 138 is not Mr. Upham a little sweeping? Has transported drift been found on Mt. Katahdin above a point 3500 feet above the sea, and was the summit of Mt. Washington glaciated? The occurrence of the single boulder found by Professor Hitchcock scarcely proves so much as that.

THE STANDARD NATURAL HISTORY.—This work is being rapidly completed and appears to be well sustained in point of treatment by the different contributors, as well as in illustrations, paper



The Arctic Fox.